

**BACTERIAL PROMOTERS AND METHODS OF USE****ABSTRACT**

5           Compositions and methods are disclosed herein that relate to the development  
of fusion promoters for regulating gene expression in bacteria. Embodiments include  
fusion promoters comprising one or more operators linked to a promoter that is  
modified to have altered activity in Gram-positive organisms. Vectors and cells  
containing these fusion promoters are also described. Other embodiments include,  
10   methods of using these fusion promoters to regulate nucleic acid and/or polypeptide  
expression, methods of using these fusion promoters to identify proliferation-required  
genes, and methods of using these fusion promoters to identify molecules having  
potential antibiotic activity.

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